

Highways 1 and 17 Widening for Merge Lanes  
Project Status Report  
May 2004

- Project Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate (PS&E) for the 1/17 Merge Lanes Project is nearing completion. Once the PS&E/design phase of the project is complete the final phase will be construction. Design details and right of way clearance activities continue with a target construction start date of August 2005. The 2004 STIP will be approved by the CTC in September at which time we will know if funding will be available for the project next year. Contingency plans are being considered at this time if STIP funding is not available. These plans include funding the project using GARVEE Bonds, or splitting out a separate soundwall project as the first phase of the larger project. Details of these fallback options will be determined once a decision is made to go with either one of them. The groundwork has been set for all options so the project can stay on course without delay.
- A meeting has been scheduled with the City of Santa Cruz on May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss traffic handling and detour plans during construction. At that time we will also discuss right of way and maintenance requirements for soundwalls that back up to City property.
- Right of Way work is currently the controlling item in the project schedule. Utility relocation requirements are being discussed with utility companies involved.